

# Wolfville Historical Society Newsletter

Founded in 1941



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## Letter From the President John Vaillancourt

Like many similar institutions within Nova Scotia, demographics and financial issues have placed the Wolfville Historical Society where it must now give serious consideration to its future operations. This year's operating budget, despite a generous \$10,000 support grant from the town, despite our curator's excellent work in acquiring four grants from a variety of sources, and despite your board's best fund-raising efforts, will require that \$7,600 be taken from our investment funds. Additionally, finding volunteers to support our usual activities has become increasingly difficult. Common problems all but ones which the WHS board is now addressing.

Thus far the board has agreed that all options are open for discussion. Should Randall House be sold and the investment income that this would generate be used to support our various collections, publications, and public presentations? Should we seek amalgamation with other local historical groups and hope to generate some economies of scale? Should we badger the province for an increase

to our operating grant? Should you have any suggestions about the future of the Town's Museum, please contact us.



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#### Board of Directors:

John Vaillancourt, *President*  
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Gordon Haliburton  
Patricia Williams  
Patricia Townsend

## Summer Staff

Hi everybody, I'm back! My name is Katie Titus, and I am pleased to be returning to the post of Museum Assistant for the third year in a row. I will be here full-time for the next three months due to a grant from the Canada Summer Jobs program, giving tours and helping with the daily life of the Randall House Museum. I have one year left to go at NSCC in Early Childhood Education, and am looking forward to getting out and working in that field upon graduation. For this summer, though, you'll find me here at the Randall House, always ready to show visitors around and talk about the history of the house and community. Feel free to drop by and say hello!



Hello, my name is Sam. I am passionate about my studies and am working toward the goal of becoming a History Professor. I was hired here at Randall House as an assistant for the Digitization project, funded by a grant from the Young Canada Works program. This project will network the information from this museum with others so as to broaden our understanding of the artifacts here and give them more historical context. This position is giving me a great deal of practical experience that I will then be able to apply to my future work and studies in History. I was very excited to be given this opportunity to contribute to the history of my home community and hope to have a very productive summer!



## Curator's Nook

This summer the WHS is celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Randall House, 1812 being the date at which Aaron Cleveland, cooper, sold the house, land and buildings, that bordered 'Mud Creek' to Charles Randall (1790-1856), carpenter and 'coachmaker'. The deed is signed by no other than Elisha DeWolf, JP, whose portrait of his wife Margaret Ratchford and himself are in the drawing room. We are fortunate to have received a grant of \$5,800 from the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage program offered by the Department of Heritage to help support this anniversary. The events and the exhibits we have lined up bear our history in mind. We are really excited about offering the 'Tides & Times Exhibit and Tour' that explores the history of the peopling of the area and the marine environment and landscape of the Wolfville Harbour habitat. In developing the tour we are especially grateful for the generous expertise of Dr. Sherman Blakeney, professor emeritus of Marine Biology at Acadia University and author of 'Sods, Soil and Spades: The Acadians at Grand Pré and Their Dykeland'. Sara Ericsson, a History student with Acadia University has been engaged for the next 10 weeks under the Canada Summer Jobs program and will be offering tours daily in French and English. But that's not all, the jewellery, samplers and fashions in the Patriquin Bedroom are sure to please.

Bonnie Elliott

## What's on at the museum?



### Now on Display

"All that Glitters"

Nova Scotia Jewellers and Jewellery

&

"Mark My Words" Samplers from the collection



### Exhibit starting June 29<sup>th</sup>

#### The Tides & Times of Wolfville Harbour

Discover the magic and mystery of the Wolfville Harbour Habitat through old photographs and artifacts. What makes the tides? What is special about the organisms that live in the mud? Why were the dykes built?

Tides & Times of Wolfville Harbour

Hour long TOURS starting June 29<sup>th</sup>!!!!

Each tour features an orientation on the tides, and how the peoples of this area were affected by them. The tour then leaves the museum and heads for Wolfville Harbour where our knowledgeable guide will reveal the secrets of the natural environment.

Tour Times: Wed. - Sat, 10:30 & 2:30pm.. Tues & Sun. 2:30 only

Visites guidées en français!

\$10.00 Adults



### Exhibit beginning July 15<sup>th</sup> ...

"Wolfville Fashions: 1900-1930"

Our hours are from Tuesday until Saturday 10 am to 5 pm  
and Sunday 1:30 until 5 pm.  
Mondays we are closed.



## August 25th—*Prepare to laugh 'til your sides hurt!*

A major fundraising event of the WHS this summer is The Lorne Elliott Comedy Show, coming to the Al Whittle Theatre, right here in Wolfville, on Saturday, 25 August, at 8:00 pm. Many of us will recall the Sunday half hour on CBC radio, "Madly off in all Directions", in which Lorne's talent for turning the ordinary (or banal) into the exaggerated and hilarious was so evident. Never nasty, never attacking, in most of his sketches he was the victim. He has performed in many towns and cities in Canada and the US, to critical acclaim. A few samples follow:

"There are excellent reasons why he deserves ranking with the top wags. He has scores of good jokes, an endearing way with stories, a sharp ear and nimble fingers for musical comedy, and enviable reflexes".

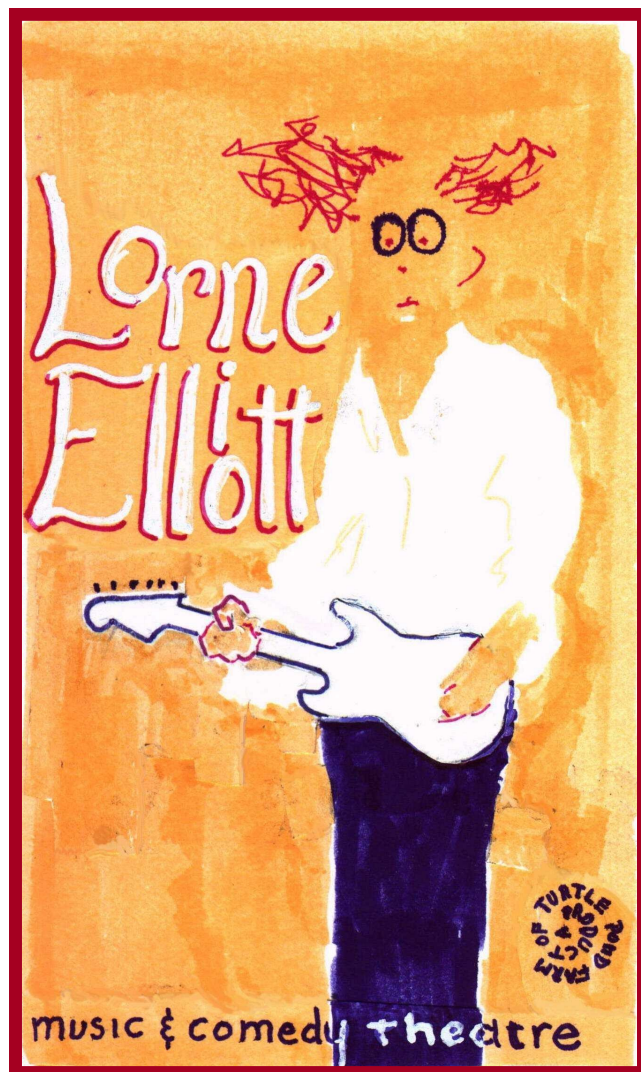
*Randal McIlroy - Winnipeg Free Press*

"Elliott's 90 minutes on stage was delightfully quirky and unrelentingly hilarious".

*Steve Mazzy - The Ottawa Citizen*

Get your tickets from a Board member, from Randall House Museum (542-9775), or from the Box of Delights Bookshop (542-9511). General admission is \$25.00. We appreciate the generosity of Mr. Elliott, who has offered this performance in return for a very modest honorarium.

**Get your tickets early, they won't last!**



## The 2012 Budget

On 16 May, the Board and membership approved the operating budget for 2012. The salient feature was that the budget projects a deficit of \$7,600. This, taken with the actual 2011 deficit of \$6,500, represents an unsustainable trend. There are quite a few factors in play, and as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the Board is working on strategies for next year and the future.

This year, our renewed memberships lag well behind previous years. Please remember that, in the face of this projected deficit, every paid-up membership is important to the Society. If you haven't gotten around to paying it yet, please do so as soon as you can..

John Brown

## Passage Project News

We are extremely pleased to welcome Sam Gillis Hogan to the Passage Project Team. In June of 2010 Sam was chosen to be the recipient of the Wolfville Historical Society Scholarship and he has now completed his second year at Memorial University pursuing a Double Major in History and Medieval Studies. He will be working with us for the next few months helping us prepare our collection for display online, together with those of other small community museums, on the ANSM Collective Access website which will be launched at the ANSM's Annual General Meeting here in Wolfville this September. If you were to visit us in the "back room" this summer you would find us busy scanning more of our photograph archive, photographing more of our textile and other artefacts, or doing research to fill information gaps in the records to enliven the online exhibit. This is an exciting time for us; after several years of steady work people all over the world will have access to the Society's collection.

Christine Lynch, Coordinator for the WHS  
Passage Project



## News from ANSM

The 2012 Conference of the Association of Nova Scotia Museums will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Acadia University (Fountain Commons, Clark Commons, and K. C. Irving Centre).

The conference title is **ReGeneration**, and the theme, **Engaging Youth**. About 100 delegates representing community museums in all parts of the province are expected to attend. There will be a pre-conference workshop on "People Power," as well as sessions on what attracts younger people to visit museums, how to relate a museum's holdings to school curriculum content, and how to find career openings in the heritage sector.

Conference delegates will have the opportunity to join a bus tour of local sites of interest, led by Pat Townsend and John Whidden. Members of the Wolfville Historical Society Board have been helping to plan the conference.

Further information, including registration information, can be found on the Association's website, [www.ansm.ns.ca](http://www.ansm.ns.ca) (click on "Training," then on "ReGeneration Conference 2012").

Anthony Harding.

## Society News: Book Launch -Coming Soon!

The Wolfville Historical Society will be publishing a new book, *Wolfville's Architectural Heritage*. The book describes the buildings of Main Street and old downtown Wolfville which were erected in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and which comprise the basis of our town's rich built heritage. It is organized in three self-guided walking tours, but can also serve as a reference book for individual properties. Gaspereau Press is producing the book, which is expected to be ready by early summer. It will be available for purchase at Randall House.

This new book has been prepared by Society member John Whidden. It continues the Society's series of publications, and updates and expands on the earlier booklets of Dr. Watson Kirkconnell.

Join us at 2pm on Sunday, July 29th during Mud Creek Days for the book signing by author John Whidden. At a cost of \$15.00 visitors will receive a signed copy, a tour of the museum and a walking tour of the Town

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Randall House Museum

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*"We are the  
community's collective  
memory"*



## Bulletin Board

### The Blomidon Inn Raffle

The following arrived in the mail from Ingrid Blais of L'Arche Homefires recently.

"Dear Members:

I was the lucky winner of your Fundraising Raffle. Last week, I had the pleasure of a wonderful supper with 5 of my workmates at the Blomidon Inn. What a treat it was!!

We had a beautiful meal, wonderful service, and enjoyed a time to be with each other out of the work place. We really enjoyed it all.

Thanks for making it possible."

### Fond Memories of 1958

Approximately ten years after it became a museum, in order to offset operat-



ing costs the Society moved the whole collection to the west side of Randall house and rented the east side for \$25.00 a month to Arthur Sheppard and his family. Pictured here around the Christmas tree are Arthur, Neicey, Carol and Robert who is kneeling. Arthur was studying at the Divinity College at Acadia and for the next 9 months, the family had happy days while living under our roof.

**We're on the web and in  
colour!**

<http://wolfvillehs.ednet.ns.ca>



**Wolfville Historical Society**

## Wolfville Historical Society

### Annual and Sustaining Membership Application Form for 2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov.: \_\_\_\_\_ P. Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive your newsletter by e-mail? Y or N

Annual Membership: Individual - \$20.00; Family - \$30.00

Annual Sustaining Membership: Individual or Couple—\$100.00

A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued.

Please fill out the above form and send it along with payment to:

Wolfville Historical Society  
259 Main Street, Wolfville N.S.  
B4P 1C6